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10/19/80

Dear Jerry,

As my wife wrote, the day of your letter I was in surgery in Georgetown, D.C., getting a plastic artery in the left thigh. That went remarkably well, only two weeks later a bunch of junk broke loose, the very day I got home, and I had to go back for further surgery, to remove what trash could be reached. They got down to the ankle but could not get what is in the foot. I got home again Thursday, feeling OK, but severely limited in the amount of walking that is possibly. Until this night (Sat-Sunday) I've been making out OK, but this was a painful, largely sleepless and worrisome night. So at 4 a.m. I'm trying to keep busy, first by responding to your new inquiries.

Under these circumstances you can understand that I can have some difficulty in recalling some of what I wrote in response to your earlier inquiry. I'll do the best I can.

You did not tell me your sudden interest. I think you should, not only in fairness but so that I may better help you. If your interest is in the your own 22 Fires, forget it as fast as you can. Your theorizing is not tenable. And if you want more information, please phone me. I have an enormous accumulation in addition to all the work I couldn't get to for so many years.

"...there is only one solid thing of which I am aware" that did not appear earlier in my writing. I don't recall what this is.

"You also mention the requirements of litigation. What does that mean, if you can recall the reference?" I can't. I am involved in much and long-lasting litigation. It is possible that the two coincide, that Lifton has tumbled to what I've been working on for years, the weight of Bullet 399. This is involved in the longest-lasting of all FOIA cases, now on remand.

"Was Kerry W.(endell) Thornley a Marine buddy of Oswald's" or is this merely a similar name. On this we have only Thornley's very questionable word. There was a time when he and Lifton were close. When Oswald was at Santa Ana and getting his discharge Thornley says they were buddies but that Oswald broke off when Thornley red-baited him. He did put out a thin, undersized book, closer to a pamphlet. As I recall he drew on an earlier and useless ms called The Idle Warriors. Much of this nothingness consisted of Thornley's commission testimony.

I think the Summers book is another of the conspiracy commercializations, put together cleverly and commercially but otherwise over-written trashy theorizing that is not supported by the evidence. Some of this personal claims, carefully put as they are, are not true. For example, re Carolyn Arnold, where he also was not even honest. The mafia stuff is nonsense.

I'm getting bad on names, even those I know well. Perhaps as I write the one you ask for will return. It is an old-time Washington Post staffer who writes the V.I.P. column. She gave the Lifton book a big blurb, entirely uncritically. If I don't recall her name my wife will and we'll add it. Don't know if she reached Lifton. Maxine Cheshire

I don't write the editors asserting that if Lifton/McMillan know who killed JFK they should not wait because that would only puff the book more and I don't think the time it would take will be spent as usefully and I can spend that time.

The puffery in PW is virtually boilerplate for the field. And I doubt that Lifton's is "the most painstaking study ever conducted of the murder and the cover-up."

Best wishes,